

# Spirebush Renewable Energy Project

## Introduction

The Scottish Government has set a target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, meaning that Scotland's contribution to climate change would end, definitively, in one generation.

This huge change means we need to upgrade Scotland's electricity transmission network.

Our upgrade work includes a new transmission line which will provide a grid connection for the proposed Spirebush Renewable Energy Project. To comply with its statutory and license obligations, SP Energy Networks must provide the Spirebush Renewable Energy Project with a connection to the transmission system.

We are now undertaking consultation as part of the engineering and environmental review of potential route options. A preferred route has been identified (see map below) and the route selection process, documented in a Routing Consultation Report, is available to download from our website: <https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/spirebush.aspx>

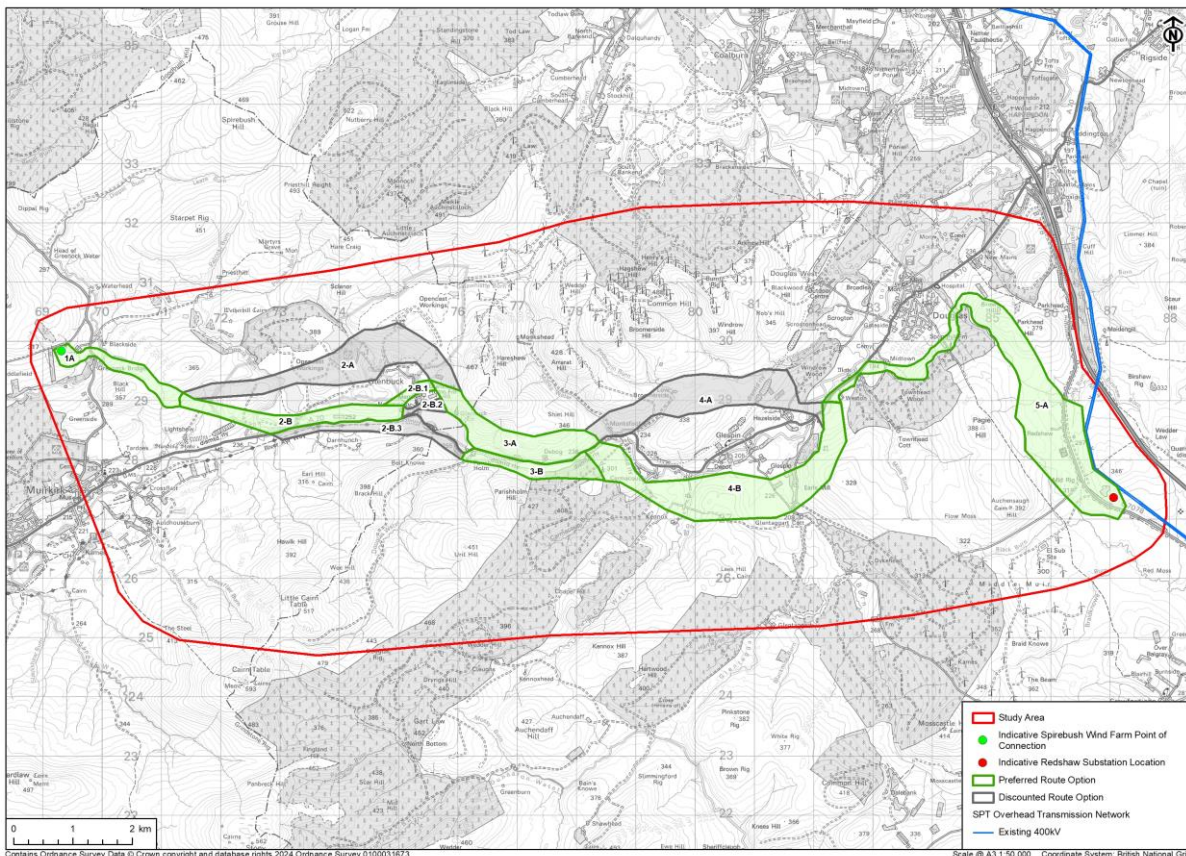
This leaflet is to provide some information on the project and how you can give us your views, either by attending one of our consultation events, visiting our virtual consultation room or contacting us directly.

## The Proposal

The proposal involves the construction of a double circuit 132 kilovolt (kV) overhead line carried on Trident wood poles with galvanised steelwork cross-arms supporting aluminium conductors on insulators. The line will connect the Spirebush Renewable Energy Project to the proposed Redshaw Substation and will provide a connection to the transmission network.

The overhead line would be situated across the authority boundaries of East Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire and would be approximately 22km in length.





## Route Options

Various route options have been identified and assessed with environmental, technical and economic factors considered. SP Energy Networks have adopted an approach which ensures that areas of high value amenity have been avoided to ensure that any local designations are not significantly affected. Particular regard was taken to the Muirkirk Uplands Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands Special Protection Area, which cover a large proportion of the Study Area in the south-west, as well as a number of other designated ecological sites, scheduled monuments and various settlements in the area.

## Our preferred route

The preferred route is identified as the route which is technically feasible and economically viable, whilst causing least disturbance to the environment and to people.

The preferred route avoids the majority of constraints associated within the study area and limits a significant amount of woodland clearance to accommodate the overhead line alignment associated with the other route options.

The preferred route is shown in green above.

## What would it look like?

The wood poles overhead line is proposed to be supported with galvanised steelwork cross arms supporting aluminium conductors on insulators. These are suitable for supporting single circuit lines operating at 132 kV.

Whilst the wood poles have a standard height above ground of 15m, these can be extended or reduced in height, as required.

The distance between wood poles will average between 80m to 120m but can be increased if there is a requirement to span a larger distance due to the presence of a feature in the landscape, such as a river or loch.

# We want to hear your views

SP Energy Networks attaches great importance to the effect our work may have on the environment and local communities. We value community engagement and are always keen to listen to what people have to say, as this feedback often plays an important part in the design evolution of a project. We want to hear what local people think about our plans, to help us develop the project in the best way possible.

Please come along to one of our public exhibitions, where you can see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team.

Date	Location	Website
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, 11am to 5pm	St Brides Centre, Braehead, Douglas ML11 OPT	<a href="http://www.stbridescentre.co.uk">www.stbridescentre.co.uk</a>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, 3pm to 7:30pm	St Brides Centre, Braehead, Douglas ML11 OPT	<a href="http://www.stbridescentre.co.uk">www.stbridescentre.co.uk</a>

Please note that any comments made during this Consultation Stage are not representations to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, which will determine any subsequent application for consent. Following the submission of the Section 37 application, interested parties will have the opportunity to make representations to the Scottish Government on this proposal.

## Can't make it?

We will also have a virtual consultation room, allowing you the opportunity to view all of the material provided at the public exhibitions and feed back to us. This will be live from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 and available at: <https://spirebush.consultation.ai/>

## How to contact us



Email: [spirebushprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk](mailto:spirebushprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk)



Write to postal address at: **Spirebush Renewable Energy Project, Land and Planning Team, SP Energy Networks, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA**



Telephone: **07516461129**



Fill in the feedback form on the virtual consultation room web page at: <https://spirebush.consultation.ai/>

## What happens next?

Following this first round of consultation, we will develop a detailed design and alignment for the new overhead line, including locations for towers, access routes and working areas. We will publish a report summarising the feedback received in this round of consultation and how this has influenced our proposal.

We will then carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment and hold a second round of public consultation so that people can give us their views on the detailed route alignment.

After considering feedback received in the second round of consultation, we will finalise our proposal and submit a consent application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, for consideration by the Scottish Ministers.

The Scottish Ministers will then undertake a final round of statutory consultation before making any decision on our application.